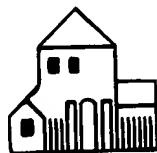


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# RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition

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RANDOM HOUSE  
NEW YORK

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scraper. 12. to draw one's foot back noisily along the ground in making a bow. 13. to manage or cope with difficulty or with only the barest margin: I barely scraped through on the test. 14. to economize or to pay attention to even the slightest amounts: By careful scraping they managed to survive. —n. 15. an act or process of scraping. 16. a drawing back of the foot along the ground in making a bow. 17. a harsh, shrill, or scratching sound made by scraping. 18. a place: a scrape on one's elbow. 19. an embarrassing or distressing situation; predicament: He is always in a scrape. 20. a difference of opinion, fight, or quarrel; scrap. [bef. 1000; (v.) ME *scraper* < ON *skrapa*; r. ME *shrapen*, OE *scrapian* to scratch (c. OF *scraper*); (n.) late ME: *scraper*, deriv. of the v.] —*scrape* *able*, *adj.* —*scrape* *age*, *n.* —*syn.* 14. scrimp, stint, pinch.

*scraper* (skrā'pər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that scrapes. 2. any of various tools or utensils for scraping. [1850-55; SCRAPE + -ER]

*scraperboard* (skrā'pər bōrd', -bōrd'), *n.* scratchboard. [1890-95; SCRAPE + BOARD]

*scrap* (skrāp), *n.* 1. a pile of old, discarded material, as a place for dumping old, useless things. Also, *scrap*. [1830-40; SCRAP + HEAP]

*scrap* (skrā'p), *n.* 1. a disease of sheep, characterized by itching of the neck and head, grinding of the teeth, and a subsequent loss of wool: caused by an unidentified sticky agent that clings to cell membranes. [1850-10; SCRAPE + -IE]

*scraping* (skrā'pɪŋ), *n.* 1. the act of a person or thing that scrapes. 2. the sound of something being scraped. 3. Usually, *scrapings*, something that is scraped off, up, or together. [1400-50; late ME; see *scrape*, -ING] —*scrap* *ing* *ly*, *adv.*

*scrap* *iron*, old iron to be remelted or reworked.

*scrapper* (skrāp'ər), *n.* a person who removes or gets away with scraps. [1640-50; SCRAP + -ER]

*scrapper* (skrāp'ər), *n.* Informal. a fighter or aggressive competitor, esp. one always ready or eager for a fight, argument, or contest: the best lightweight scrapper in boxing; a rugged political scrapper. [1870-75; SCRAP + -ER]

*scrap* (skrāp), *n.* Pennsylvania Dutch Cookery. a meaty mixed with pork scraps, seasoned with spices, herbs, etc., and shaped into loaves and fried. [1810-20, Amer.; SCRAP + -LE]

*scrap* (skrāp), *adj.* *pl-er*, *pl-est*. made up of scraps or of odds and ends; fragmentary; disconnected. [1850-40; SCRAP + -Y] —*scrap* *ply*, *adv.* —*scrap* *ness*, *n.*

*scrap* (skrāp), *adj.* *pl-er*, *pl-est*. Informal. 1. of fighting, arguing, or competing. [1890-95; SCRAP + -Y]

*scratch* (skratch), *v.t.* 1. to break, mar, or mark the surface of by rubbing, scraping, or tearing with something sharp or rough: to scratch one's hand on a nail. 2. to scrape, or tear (something) out or off with or as if with the nails, claws, etc.: to scratch the burrs off one's coat. 3. to rub or scrape slightly, as with the fingernails, to relieve itching. 4. to rub or draw along a rough, grating surface: to scratch a match on the sidewalk. 5. to cancel, strike out, or eliminate (a name, something written, etc.) by or as if by drawing a line through it (as in a list). 6. to scratch out the third name on the list. 7. to scratch (an entry) from a race or competition. 8. to divide (one's vote) though predominantly supporting one political party or faction. 9. to cancel out or reject a particular name or names on (a party ticket) in voting. 10. to write or draw by scraping or scratching the lines. 11. to manipulate (a phonograph record) back and forth under the stylus to produce rhythmic sounds. —*v.i.* 12. to use the nails, claws, etc., for tearing, digging, etc. 13. to relieve itching by rubbing or scratching lightly, as with the fingernails. 14. to make a light grating noise, as a pen. 15. to earn a living or to manage in any respect with great difficulty: We scratched along that year on very little money. 16. to withdraw or be withdrawn from a contest or competition. 17. (in certain card games) to make no score; earn no points. 18. *Billiards*. Pool. to make a shot that results in a penalty, esp. to pocket the cue ball without hitting the object ball. —*n.* 19. a slight injury, mar, or mark, usually thin and shallow, caused by scratching: scratches on my leg; a noticeable scratch on the wheel. 20. a rough mark made by a pen, pencil, etc.; a scratch. 21. an act of scratching. 22. the slight grating sound caused by scratching. 23. the starting place, starting time, or status of a competitor in a handicap race. 24. no allowance and no penalty. 25. *Billiards*. a shot resulting in a penalty, esp. a pocketing of the cue ball without hitting the object ball. 26. a fluke or lucky shot. 27. (in certain card games) a score of zero; a scratch. 28. *Baseball*. See *scratch hit*. 29. See *scratch* *wig*.

*scratch* (skratch), *n.* 1. the very beginning or starting point. 2. nothing without resources: After the depression he started another business from scratch. 3. up to scratch, in conformity with a certain standard; adequate: The local symphony orchestra has been up to scratch this year, but it is still not up to scratch.

*scratch* (skratch), *adj.* 1. used for hasty writing, notes, etc.: scratch notes. 2. without any allowance, penalty, or handicap: scratch competitor or contestant. 3. Informal. done by or dependent on chance: a scratch shot. 4. Informal. done hastily and indiscriminately: a scratch crew.

*scratch* (skratch), *n.* 1. a scratch cake. [1425-50; ME *scrache* (v.), b. ME *scratte* to scratch, and *scrache* to scratch; c. MD *cratsen*] —*scratch* *able*, *adj.* —*scratch* *ably*, *adv.* —*scratch* *er*, *n.* —*scratch* *ing*, *adv.* —*scratch* *like*, *adj.*

*scratch* (skratch), *n.* Old Scratch; Satan. [1730-40; *scrat* of *scrat* hermaphrodite (late ME *scratte*; cf. OE *scrat* (ance), which may be an error for *scrat*); c. ON *skrat* devil, goblin, wizard, OHG *skraz* wood-demon]

*scratch* *awl*, Carpentry. an awl-like device for scratching wood. [1890-95]

*scratch-board* (skratch'bōrd', -bōrd'), *n.* a cardboard coated with impermeable white clay and covered by a layer of ink that is scratched or scraped in patterns revealing the white surface below. Also called *scratch-card*, *scraperboard*. [1925-30; SCRATCH + BOARD]

*scratch-coat*, (in plastering) a rough, deeply scored first coat upon which the brown coat is laid. [1815-25, Amer.] —*scratch-coat* *ed*, *adj.*

*scratches* (skratch'iz), *n.* (used with a singular v.) Vet. Pathol. a disease of horses marked by dry rifts or chaps that appear on the skin near the fetlock, behind the knee, or in front of the hock. [1605-15; see SCRATCH, -S]

*scratch/hardness*, resistance of a material, as a stone or metal, to scratching by one of several other materials, the known hardnesses of which are assembled into a standard scale, as the Mohs' scale of minerals. [1925-30]

*scratch hit*, Baseball. a batted ball, usually poorly hit, barely enabling the batter to reach base safely: a scratch hit off the end of the bat. [1915-20]

*scratch/ing post*, a block or post of wood, usually covered with carpeting, on which a cat can use its claws. [1890-95]

*scratch/line*, 1. a line that marks the start of a race. 2. *Track and Field*. a line that a competitor is not allowed to step over while performing in certain events, as the triple jump or javelin throw. [1895-1900]

*scratch/pad*, a pad of paper used for jotting down ideas, informal notes, preliminary writing, etc. [1890-95]

*scratch/sheet*, a racing publication giving the betting odds and other information on the horses entered at a racetrack or racetracks during a racing day. [1935-40]

*scratch/test*, a test for a suspected allergy in which the skin is scratched and an allergen applied to the area, redness indicating a positive reaction. [1935-40]

*scratch/wig*, a short wig, esp. one that covers only part of the head. Also called *scratch*. [1765-75]

*scratch-y* (skratch'ē), *adj.* *scratch-ier*, *scratch-i-est*. 1. causing or liable to cause a slight grating noise: a scratchy record. 2. consisting of or marked by scratches: a scratchy drawing. 3. uneven; haphazard: He plays a scratchy game. 4. causing itching or other minor irritation of the skin: a scratchy woolen sweater. 5. causing or liable to cause a scratch or scratches: scratchy bushes. 6. Chiefly Brit. Slang. peevish; spiteful. [1700-10; SCRATCH + -Y] —*scratch-ily*, *adv.* —*scratch-iness*, *n.*

*scrawl* (skrōl), *v.t.* 1. to write or draw in a sprawling, awkward manner: He scrawled his name hastily across the blackboard. —*v.i.* 2. to write awkwardly, carelessly, or illegibly. —*n.* 3. awkward, careless, or illegible handwriting. 4. something scrawled, as a letter or a note. [1605-15; perh. to be identified with late ME *scraule* to sprawl, *crawl* (b. SPRAWL and CRAWL)]

*scrawler* (skrō'lər), *n.* 1. a person who scrawls. 2. an agricultural machine for laying out fields in which plants are to be placed in ridged rows. [1725-35; SCRAWL + -ER]

*scrawl-y* (skrō'lē), *adj.* *scrawl-ier*, *scrawl-i-est*. written or drawn awkwardly or carelessly. [1825-35; SCRAWL + -Y] —*scrawl-iness*, *n.*

*scrawn-y* (skrō'nē), *adj.* *scrawn-ier*, *scrawn-i-est*. excessively thin; lean; scraggy: a long, scrawn-y neck. [1825-35, Amer.; var. of dial. *scran* < Norw *skran* lean + -Y] —*scrawn-ily*, *adv.* —*scrawn-iness*, *n.* —*Syn.* gaunt, emaciated. —*Ant.* fleshy, plump.

*scream* (skream), *v.i.* 1. to scream. 2. to creak. —*n.* 3. a scream. 4. a creak. [1490-1500; < Scand; cf. Norw *skrike*, Dan *skrige*; c. ON *skrekja* to scream; see SCREECH] —*scream-y*, *adj.*

*scream* (skream), *v.i.* 1. to utter a loud, sharp, piercing cry. 2. to emit a shrill, piercing sound: The sirens and whistles screamed. 3. to laugh immoderately or uncontrollably: The comedian had the audience screaming. 4. to shout or speak shrilly, esp. with harsh or exaggerated words: They screamed across the back fence. 5. to play or sing in a high, loud, harsh manner. 6. to be conspicuous or startling: That red dress really screams. —*u.t.* 7. to utter with or as if with a scream or screams. 8. to make by screaming: to scream oneself hoarse. —*n.* 9. a loud, sharp, piercing cry: Her scream frightened off the burglar. 10. a shrill, piercing sound: the scream of the tires as the car rounded the curve. 11. Informal. something or something that is hilariously funny: The movie was a scream. [1150-1200; 1905-10 for def. 11; ME *scramen* (v.), OE *scraman*; akin to ON *skraumi* chatterbox, braggart, *skruma* to jabber; sc- (for regular sh- in ME *shream*) from obs. *scrith* to SCREECH] —*Syn.* 1. SCREAM, SHRIEK, SCREECH apply to crying out in a loud, piercing way. TO SCREAM is to utter a loud, piercing cry, esp. of pain, fear, anger, or excitement: to scream with terror. The word is also used for a little, barely audible cry given by one who is startled. SHRIEK usually refers to a sharper and briefer cry than SCREAM; when caused by fear or pain, it is often indicative of more terror or distress; SHRIEK is also used for shrill uncontrolled cries: to shriek with laughter. SCREECH emphasizes disagreeable shrillness and harshness, often with a connotation of lack of dignity: to screech approval at a rock concert. 9. outcry, shriek, screech, scream.

*scream-er* (skrēm'ər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that screams. 2. Informal. something or someone causing screams of excitement, laughter, or the like. 3. Print. Slang. an exclamation point. 4. Journalism. a sensational headline. 5. banner (def. 7). Cf. *scarehead*. 6. Baseball Slang. an extremely hard-hit line drive. —*Ornith.* any of several South American birds of the family *Anhimidae*, having a harsh, trumpeting call. Cf. *horned screamer*. [1705-15; SCREAM + -ER]

*scream-ing* (skrēm'ɪŋ), *adj.* 1. uttering screams. 2. boldly striking or startling; screaming colors: screaming headlines. 3. causing hilarious laughter; extremely funny: a screaming farce. —*n.* 4. the act or sound of a person or thing that screams. [1350-1400; ME (ger.); see SCREAM, -ING, -ING] —*scream-ing-ly*, *adv.*

*scream-ing-mee-mies* (skrēm'ɪŋ mē'mēz), *n.* (used with a singular or plural v.) Informal. extreme nervousness; hysteria (usually prec. by the). [1925-30; re-dupl. with alter. of SCREAMING; see -Y, -S]

*scree* (skrē), *n.* a steep mass of detritus on the side of a mountain. [1775-85; < ON *skritha* landslide]

*screech* (skrēch), *v.i.* 1. to utter or make a harsh, shrill cry or sound: The child screeched hysterically. The brakes screeched. —*u.t.* 2. to utter with a screech: She screeched her warning. —*n.* 3. a harsh, shrill cry or sound: an owl's screech; the screech of brakes. [1550-60; var. of obs. *scrith* to scream; akin to SCREAM] —*screech-er*, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. See SCREAM.

*screech-ing* (skrē'chɪŋ), *adj.* 1. causing or uttering screeches: screeching bats. 2. characteristic of screeches; harshly shrill: a screeching tone. —*n.* 3. the act or sound of a person or thing that screeches. [1610-20; SCREECH + -ING, -ING] —*screech-ing-ly*, *adv.*

*screech-owl*, 1. any of numerous small American owls of the genus *Otus*, having hornlike tufts of feathers, as *O. asio*, of eastern North America. 2. (not in technical use) any owl having a harsh cry, esp. the barn owl. Also, *screech-owl*. [1585-95]

screech owl,  
*Otus asio*,  
length 9 in.  
(23 cm)



*screech-y* (skrē'chē), *adj.* *screech-ier*, *screech-i-est*. 1. like or suggesting screeching. 2. producing screeches: a screechy door. [1820-30; SCREECH + -Y]

*scree* (skrēd), *n.* 1. a long discourse or essay, esp. a diatribe. 2. an informal letter, account, or other piece of writing. 3. *Building Trades*. a. a strip of plaster or wood applied to a surface to be plastered to serve as a guide for making a true surface. b. a wooden strip serving as a guide for making a true level surface on a concrete pavement or the like. c. a board or metal strip dragged across a freshly poured concrete slab to give it its proper level. 4. *Brit. Dial.* a fragment or shred, as of its proper level. 5. *Scot.* a tear or rip, esp. in cloth. 6. a drink-ing bout. —*u.t.* 7. *Scot.* to tear, rip, or shred, as cloth. [1275-1325; ME *screde* torn fragment, irreg. (with sc- for sh-) repr. OE *scraede* SHRED]

*screen* (skrēn), *n.* 1. a movable or fixed device, usually consisting of a covered frame, that provides shelter, serves as a partition, etc. 2. a permanent, usually ornamental partition, as around the choir of a church or across the hall of a medieval house. 3. a specially prepared, light-reflecting surface on which motion pictures, slides, etc., may be projected. 4. motion pictures collectively or the motion-picture industry. 5. *Electronics*. Television. the external surface of the large end of a cathode-ray tube of a television set, radar receiver, etc., on which an electronically created picture or image is formed. 6. *Computers*. a. Also called *video screen*, the portion of a terminal or monitor upon which information is displayed. b. frame (def. 10). 7. anything that shelters, protects, or conceals: a screen of secrecy; a screen of fog prevented our seeing the ship. 8. a frame holding a mesh of wire, cloth, or plastic, for placing in a window or doorway, around a porch, etc., to admit air but exclude insects. 9. a sieve, riddle, or other meshlike device used to separate smaller particles or objects from larger ones, as for grain or sand. 10. a system for screening or grouping people, objects, etc. 11. *Mil.* a body of troops sent out to protect the movement of an army. 12. *Navy*. a protective formation of small vessels, as destroyers, around or in front of a larger ship or ships. 13. *Physics*. a shield designed to prevent interference between various agencies: electric screen. 14. *Electronics*. See *screen grid*. 15. *Photog.* a plate of ground glass or the like on which the image is brought into focus in a camera before being photographed. 16. *Photoengraving*. a transparent plate containing two sets of fine parallel lines, one crossing the other, used in the halftone process. 17. *Sports*. a. any of various offensive plays in which teammates form a protective formation around the ball carrier, pass receiver, shooter, etc. b. any of various defensive plays in which teammates conceal or block an opposing ball carrier, pass receiver, shooter, or the goal, basket, net, etc., itself. —*u.t.* 18. to shelter, protect, or conceal with or as if with a screen. 19. to select, reject, consider, or group (people, objects, ideas, etc.) by examining systematically: Job applicants were screened by the personnel department. 20. to provide with a screen or screens to exclude insects: He screened the porch so they could enjoy sitting out on summer evenings. 21. to sift or sort by passing through a screen. 22. to project (a motion picture, slide, etc.) on a screen. 23. *Motion Pictures*. a. to show (a motion picture), esp. to an invited audience, as of exhibitors and critics. b. to photograph with a motion-picture camera; film. c. to adapt (a story, play, etc.) for presentation as a motion picture. 24. to lighten (type or areas of a line engraving) by etching a regular pattern of dots or lines into the printing surface. —*u.t.* 25. to be projected on a motion picture screen. [1350-1400; ME *scrēn* (n.) < AF: OF *escren* (F *écran*) < Frankish *\*skrank*, c. OHG *scränk* barrier (G *Schrank* cupboard)] —*screen-a-ble*, *adj.*

*screen* (skrēn), *v.t.* 1. to screen. 2. to creak. —*n.* 3. a screen. 4. a creak. [1490-1500; < Scand; cf. Norw *skrike*, Dan *skrige*; c. ON *skrekja* to scream; see SCREECH] —*scream-y*, *adj.*

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CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pāt; set, equal; if, ice; ox, über, order, oil, book, bōol; out, up, urge; ching, shoe; thin; in that; zh as in treasure. a = as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u = as in circus; s as in fire (fīr), hour (hūr); l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.

—screen/er, n. —screen/less, adj. —screen/like, adj.

—Syn. 7. guard, shield. See cover. 18. veil, defend, shield, hide, mask.

**Screen/ Actors Guild**, a labor union for motion-picture performers, founded in 1933. Abb.: SAG

**screen/ grid**, Electronics. a grid placed between the anode and the control electrode in a vacuum tube, usually maintained at a fixed positive potential. [1925-30]

**screen-ing** (skrē'nīng), n. 1. the act or work of a person who screens, as in ascertaining the character and competence of applicants, employees, etc. 2. the showing of a motion picture: *There will be screenings at 6 P.M. and 8 P.M.* 3. **screenings**, (used with a singular or plural v.) a. undesirable material that has been separated from usable material by means of a screen or sieve: *screenings of imperfect grain.* b. extremely fine coal. 4. the meshed material used in screens for windows and doors. [1715-25; SCREEN + -ING]

**screen-land** (skrēn'land'), n. filmworld. [1920-25; SCREEN + -LAND]

**screen/ mem/ory**, Psychoanal. a childhood memory, perhaps recalled falsely, that screens out a more distressing recollection. [1920-25]

**screen-o** (skrē'nō), n. (sometimes cap.) (formerly) bingo played in a movie theater. [SCREEN + (BING)O]

**screen/ pass**, Football. a pass thrown to a receiver who is directly in back of a wall of blockers and who is behind or not far beyond the line of scrimmage. [1950-55]

**screen-play** (skrēn'plā'), n. 1. a motion-picture or television scenario. 2. Older Use. a motion picture. [1915-20; SCREEN + PLAY]

**screen/ test**, a filmed audition to determine the suitability of an individual for appearing or acting in a motion picture. [1920-25]

**screen-test** (skrēn'test'), v.t. 1. to give a screen test to: *The studio screen-tested 400 children before casting the part.* —v.i. 2. to undergo a screen test: *Dozens of actors have screen-tested for the role.* [1965-70; v. use of n. phrase screen test]

**screen-wip-er** (skrēn'wi'pər), n. Brit. See wind-shield wiper. [1925-30]

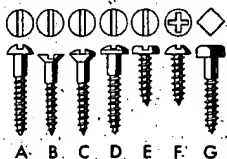
**screen-writ-er** (skrēn'ri'tər), n. a person who writes screenplays, esp. as an occupation or profession. [1920-25; SCREEN + WRITER]

**screen-er** (skrē'nər), n. Chiefly Brit. an artist who draws pictures on sidewalks, as with colored chalks, earning a living from the donations of spectators and passersby. [1875-80; earlier screwer (v.) (< Polari) < It scriuere to write (< L scribere) + -ER]

**SCREW** (skrōd), n. 1. a metal fastener having a tapered shank with a helical thread, and topped with a slotted head, driven into wood or the like by rotating, esp. by means of a screwdriver. 2. a threaded cylindrical pin or rod with a head at one end, engaging a threaded hole and used either as a fastener or as a simple machine for applying power, as in a clamp, jack, etc. Cf. **bolt** (def. 3). 3. Brit. a tapped or threaded hole. 4. something having a spiral form. 5. See **screw propeller**. 6. Usually, **screws**, physical or mental coercion: *The terrified debtor soon felt the gangster's screws.* 7. a single turn of a screw. 8. a twist, turn, or twisting movement. 9. Chiefly Brit. a. a little salt, sugar, tobacco, etc., carried in a twist of paper. b. Slang. a mean, old, or worn-out horse; a horse from which one can obtain no further service. c. Slang. a friend or employer from whom one can obtain no more money. d. Slang. a miser. 10. Brit. Informal. salary; wages. 11. Slang. a prison guard. 12. Slang (vulgar). a. an act of coitus. b. a person viewed as a sexual partner. 13. have a screw loose, Slang. to be eccentric or neurotic; have crazy ideas: *You must have a screw loose to keep so many cats.* 14. put the screws on, to compel by exerting pressure on; use coercion on; force: *They kept putting the screws on him for more money.* 15. to fasten, tighten, force, press, stretch tight, etc., by or as if by means of a screw or device operated by a screw or helical threads. 16. to operate or adjust by a screw, as a press. 17. to attach with a screw or screws: *to screw a bracket to a wall.* 18. to insert, fasten, undo, or work (a screw, bolt, nut, bottle top with a helical thread, etc.) by turning. 19. to contort as by twisting; distort: *Father screwed his face into a grimace of disgust.* 20. to cause to become sufficiently strong or intense (usually fol. by up): *I screwed up my courage to ask for a raise.* 21. to coerce or threaten. 22. to extract or extort. 23. to force (a seller) to lower a price (often fol. by down). 24. Slang. to cheat or take advantage of (someone). 25. Slang (vulgar). to have coitus with. —v.i. 26. to turn as or like a screw. 27. to be adapted for being connected, taken apart, opened, or closed by means of a screw or screws or parts with helical threads (usually fol. by on, together, or off): *This top screws on easily.* 28. to turn or move with a twisting or rotating motion. 29. to practice extortion. 30. Slang (vulgar). to have coitus. 31. screw around, Slang. a. to waste time in foolish or frivolous activity: *If you'd stop screwing around we could get this job done.* b. Vulgar. to engage in promiscuous sex. 32. screw off, Slang. a. to do nothing; loaf. b. to leave; go away. 33. screw up, Slang. a. to ruin through bungling or stupidity: *Something the engineers screwed up the entire construction project.* b. to make a botch of something; blunder. c. to make confused, anxious, or neurotic. [1375-1425; late ME *scrue*, *scruwe* (n.); cf. MF *escro* (ue) nut, MD *schrube*, MHG *schrube* screw] —screw/a-ble, adj. —screw/er, n. —screw/less, adj. —screw/like, adj. —Syn. 22. wring, wrest, force, exact, squeeze.

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b., blend of; blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; a., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; \* , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

screws (def. 1) and screwheads  
A, round head; B, flat head;  
C, oval head; D, fillister  
head; E, metal screw;  
F, Phillips head screw;  
G, lag screw



**screw/ an/chor**, Naut. See mooring screw.

**screw/ au/ger**, an auger having a helical outer surface suggesting a screw thread. [1785-95, Amer.]

**screw/ ax/is**, Crystall. a symmetry element of a space group such that a rotation of the lattice about the axis and a translation of the lattice some fraction of the lattice's unit distance brings the lattice back to its original position. [1900-05]

**screw-ball** (skrōd'bōl'), n. 1. Slang. an eccentric or whimsically eccentric person; a nut. 2. Baseball. a pitched ball that curves toward the side of the plate from which it was thrown. —adj. 3. Slang. eccentric or whimsically eccentric: *What a screwball idea!* [1865-70; 1935-40 for def. 2; SCREW + BALL]

**screw/ bean**, 1. a tree, *Prosopis pubescens*, of the legume family, native to the southwestern U.S., bearing twisted pods used as fodder. 2. the pod itself. Also called **tornillo**. [1865-70, Amer.]

**screw/ cap**, a cap designed to screw onto the threaded mouth of a bottle, jar, or the like. [1870-75]

**screw/ convey/or**, a device for moving loose materials, consisting of a shaft with a broad, helically wound blade rotating in a tube or trough. Also called **worm**.

**screw-driver** (skrōd'dri'vər), n. 1. a hand tool for turning a screw, consisting of a handle attached to a long, narrow shank, usually of metal, which tapers and flattens out to a tip that fits into the slotted head of a screw. 2. a mixed drink made with vodka and orange juice. [1770-80; SCREW + DRIVER]

**screwed** (skrōd), adj. 1. fastened with screws. 2. having grooves like a screw; threaded. 3. twisted; awry. 4. Slang. bilked; cheated. 5. Chiefly Brit. Slang. drunk; intoxicated. [1640-50; SCREW + -ED]

**screw/ eye**, a screw having a ring-shaped head. [1870-75]

**screw/ fly**, See **screwworm fly**. [1880-85]

**screw-head** (skrōd'hed'), n. the head or top of a screw having a slot for the end of a screwdriver. See **diag.** under **screw**. [1680-90; SCREW + HEAD]

**screw/ hook**, a hook having a shank in the form of a screw. [1680-90]

**screw/ jack**, jackscrew. [1710-20]

**screw/ log**, Naut. See patent log.

**screw/ moor/ing**, Naut. See mooring screw.

**screw/ nail**, See drive screw. [1650-60]

**screw/ nut**, a nut threaded to receive a screw. [1805-15]

**screw-off** (skrōd'ōf', -ōf'), n. Slang. a loafer; idler. Also, **screw/off**. [n. use of v. phrase screw off]

**screw-on** (skrōd'ōn', -ōn'), adj. 1. attached, connected, or closed by screwing onto another part of a container or receptacle. 2. (of an earring) held on the earlobe by a small screwlike post with a disk at the tip. [1925-30; adj. use of v. phrase screw on]

**screw/ pile**, a pile that is used for the foundations of bridges, lighthouses, etc., and has a screwlike lower end for drilling through and taking firm hold in compacted material. [1830-40] —screw/ pil'ing

**screw/ pine**, any tropical Asian tree or shrub of the genus *Pandanus*, having a palmlike or branched stem, long, narrow, rigid, spirally arranged leaves and aerial roots, and bearing an edible fruit. [1830-40]

**screw-plate** (skrōd'plāt'), n. a metal plate having threaded holes, used for cutting screw threads by hand. Also, **screw/ plate**. [1650-60; SCREW + PLATE]

**screw/ press**, a device for applying pressure by the turning of a threaded shaft. [1680-90]

**screw/ propel/er**, a rotary propelling device, as for a ship or airplane, consisting of a number of blades that radiate from a central hub and are so inclined to the plane of rotation as to tend to drive a helical path through the substance in which they rotate. [1830-40] —screw/-propelled, adj.

**screw/ thread**, 1. Also called **worm**, the helical ridge of a screw. 2. a full turn of the helical ridge of a screw. [1805-15]

**screw-top** (skrōd'top'), adj. 1. (of a container) having a top that screws on. —n. 2. a top that can be screwed onto a container. 3. a container having such a top. [1890-95]

**screw-up** (skrōd'up'), n. Slang. 1. a mistake or blunder: *The package was delayed through an addressing screw-up.* 2. a habitual blunderer. Also, **screw/up**. [1955-60; Amer.; n. use of v. phrase screw up]

**screw-worm** (skrōd'wūrm'), n. the larva of any of certain flies of the genus *Callitroga*, which sometimes infests wounds and the nose and navel of domestic animals and humans. [1875-80, Amer.; SCREW + WORM]

**screw/worm fly**, the adult screwworm. Also called **screw fly**. [1905-10; Amer.]

**screw-y** (skrōd'ē), adj., **screw-i-er**, **screw-i-est**. Slang. 1. crazy; nutty: *I think you're screwy, refusing an invitation to the governor's dinner.* 2. disconcertingly strange: *There's something screwy about his story.* 3. absurdly peculiar or impractical; ridiculous: *screwy ideas*. [1810-20; SCREW + -Y]

**Scria-bin** (skrē ā'bin; Russ. skryā'byin), n. A-le-kean-

dr Ni-ko-la-e-vich (al'ig zan'dar nik'ē l'ē vich; Russ. u lyi kaān'da nyi ku lā'yī vyich), 1872-1915, Russian composer and pianist.

**scribble** (skrib'əl), v., -bled, -bling, n. —v. 1. to write hastily or carelessly: *to scribble a letter.* 2. to cover with meaningless writing or marks: *scribble over a page.* —v.i. 3. to write or draw in a hasty, careless way. 4. to make meaningless marks, scribbles, etc., with a pencil, pen, or the like. —n. 5. a hasty or careless drawing or piece of writing. 6. a scribble, esp. when illegible. [1425-75; late ME scribbelen (v.) < ML scribillare to scribble, deriv. of L scribere to write; see SHRIVE] —scribble/ing-ly, adv.

**scribble** (skrib'əl), v.t., -bled, -bling, to tear apart scribbles to scratch; c. scribbelen to card, wool coarsely, freq. of schrobben to scrub

**scrib-ble** (skrib'blər), n. 1. a writer whose work has little or no value or importance. 2. a person who scribbles. [1845-55; SCRIBBLE + -ER]

**scrib-ble** (skrib'blər), n. a machine for scribbling wool fibers. [1675-85; SCRIBBLE + -ER]

**scribble block**, Brit. See scratch pad. [1910-10]

**scribe** (skrib), n., v., scribed, scribing. —n. 1. a person who serves as a professional copyist, esp. one who made copies of manuscripts before the invention of printing. 2. a public clerk or writer, usually one having official status. 3. Also called **sopher**, **sofer**, Judaism. one of the group of Palestinian scholars and teachers of Jewish law and tradition, active from the 6th century B.C. to the 1st century A.D., who transcribed, edited, and interpreted the Bible. 4. a writer or author, esp. a novelist. —v.i. 5. to act as a scribe; write. —v.t. 6. to write down. [1350-1400; ME < L scriba clerk, deriv. of scribere to write] —scrib/al, adj.

**scribe** (skrib), v., scribed, scribing, n. —v.i. 1. to mark or score (wood or the like) with a pointed instrument as a guide to cutting or assembling. —v.t. 2. to scribe. [1670-80; perh. aph. form of INSCRIBE]

**Scribe** (skrēb), n. Au-gus-tin Eu-gène (ō gū'stīv ə zhen'), 1791-1861, French dramatist.

**scrib-er** (skrib'ər), n. a tool for scribing wood or the like. Also, **scribo**. [1825-35; SCRIBE + -ER]

**scrim** (skrim), n. 1. a cotton or linen fabric of open weave used for hunting, curtains, etc. 2. Theat. a piece of such fabric used as a drop, border, or the like, for creating the illusion of a solid wall or backdrop under certain lighting conditions or creating a semitransparent curtain when lit from behind. [1785-95; orig. uncert.]

**scrim-mage** (skrim'ij), n., v., -maged, -mag-ing, —n. 1. a rough or vigorous struggle. 2. Football. the action that takes place between teams from the time the ball is snapped until it is declared dead. Cf. **line of scrimmage**. b. a practice session or informal game in which two units of the same team play against each other. —v.t. 3. to engage in a scrimmage. [1425-75; late ME, var. of scrimish, metathetic form of SKRIMP] —scrim/mag-er, n.

**scrim/mage line**, See line of scrimmage. [1675-80]

**skrimp** (skrimp), v.i. 1. to be sparing or frugal; economize (often fol. by on): *They skimped and saved for everything they have.* He spends most of his money on clothes, and skimps on food. —v.t. 2. to be sparing or restrictive of or in; limit severely: *to skimp food.* 3. to keep on short allowance; provide sparingly for: *to skimp their elderly parents.* [1710-20; < Scand.; cf. Skrympa, Norw., Dan skrumpe (orig. 'skrimpa; strong) to shrivel, c. MHG skrimpfen to contract; see SHRIMP] —Syn. 1. skimp, stint, save, scrape.

**skrimpy** (skrim'pē), adj., **skrimp-i-er**, **skrimp-i-est**. 1. scanty; meager; barely adequate. 2. tending to skimp; frugal; parsimonious. [1850-55; SKRIMP + -Y] —skrimp/i-ly, adv. —skrimp/i-ness, n.

**scrim-shank** (skrim'shank'), v.i. Brit. Slang. to avoid one's obligations or share of work; shirk. [1855-90; orig. uncert.] —scrim/shank-er, n.

**scrim-shaw** (skrim'shō'), n. 1. a carved or engraved article, esp. of whale ivory, walrus tusk, etc., in the shape of a scroll, used as a decorative object. 2. the like, made by whalers as a leisure occupation. 3. such articles or work collectively. 4. the art or technique of carving or engraving whale ivory, walrus tusks, etc. —v.i. 4. to produce scrimshaw. —v.t. 5. to carve or engrave (whale ivory or walrus tusk) scrimshaw. [1860-65; of obscure orig.]

**scrim-lum** (skrin'ē am), n., pl. **scrim-las** (skrin'ē lō), a cylindrical container used in ancient Rome to hold papyrus rolls. [< L scrinium; see SHRINE]

**scrip** (skrip), n. 1. a receipt, certificate, list, or similar brief piece of writing. 2. a scrap of paper. 3. Finance. a. a certificate representing a fraction of a share of stock. b. a certificate to be exchanged for goods at the company store. c. a certificate indicating the right of the holder to receive payment later in the form of goods, or land. 4. paper currency in denominations less than one dollar, formerly issued in the United States. [1610-20; earliest sense "scrap of paper"; gradational var. of SCRAP; subsequent sense "small amount" shows influence of SCRIPT and SUBSCRIPTION; def. 3a specifically a shortening of subscription] —scrip/less, adj.

**scrip** (skrip), n. Archaic. a bag or wallet carried by wayfarers. [1250-1300; ME scrippe < ML scrippula grims' pack < ?]

**scrip** (skrip), n. Informal. a prescription. [1965-70; shortening of PRESCRIPTION]

**scrip/ div/idend**, a dividend issued in the form of a note entitling the holder to a cash payment at a specified later date. [1880-85]

**scrip-o-phile** (skrip'ō fil'), n. a person who practices scripophily. Also, **scripoph-i-list** (skrip'ō fil'ist) [1975-80; SCRIP + -O- + -PHILE]